



# Tara finds her Stars



Illustrated by **Shikha Nambiar**

Written by **Mala Kumar and  
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**‘Tara finds her Stars’** by Mala Kumar and Manisha Chaudhry  
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Tara could not sit still! The train seemed to be going very slowly. Tara peered out through the window. Lights winked from windows in tall buildings. As everyone in the bogey prepared to sleep, one passenger asked Tara, "Beti, I hope you are not running away from home?"

"No, no!" said Tara. Early in the morning, Tara got off the train at Meenapur.





She walked towards the banks of the river Ganga and got into a crowded boat. "Who could this girl be, travelling all alone?" wondered many people on the boat. As Tara got out, the boatman asked, "Have you run away from home?"

Tara smiled and said, "No, no, Sir, I am going home!"



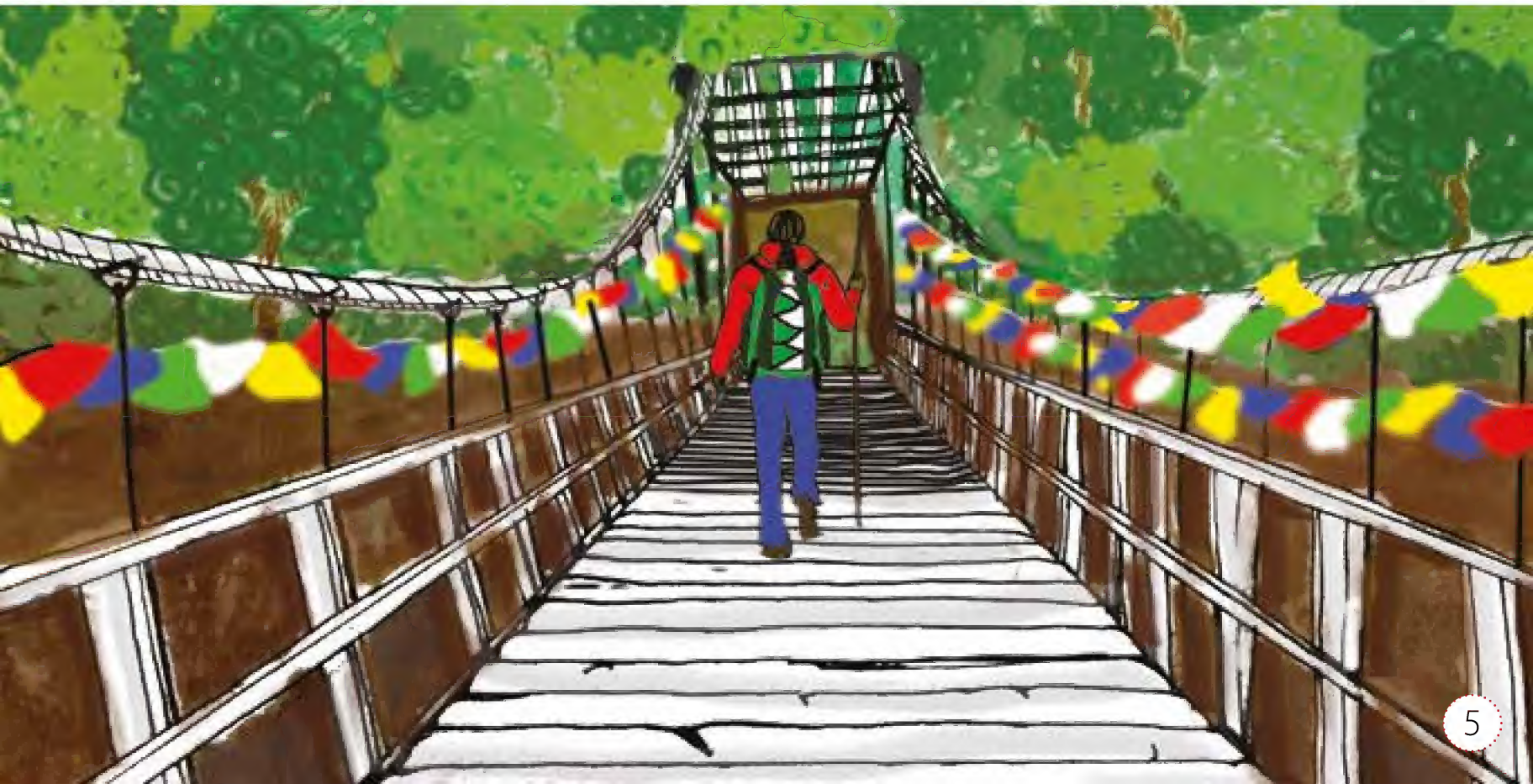


Tara came to a forest. She took out her camera. A deer looked at her and seemed to be asking what she was doing there! Tara aimed her camera and clicked. "I've come home, dear deer, I've come home to the village of my ancestors."





As the sun set, Tara started walking on a rope bridge. The bridge swung gently with her steps. She smiled as she thought of what awaited her on the other side.



Once on the other side, Tara stopped to take out her map and plan her way forward. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. Ah, the earthy smell of green trees and plants in this forest was lovely!





Tara made a small bonfire. She ate some food that she had packed and settled down under the sky. Stars twinkled like friends. Tomorrow she would cross the forest by foot, and then take a bus to the village where her great grandparents lived. For today, Tara Prakash, famous wildlife photographer, was just going to sleep under the stars and dream about home.



## Dear Reader,

Have you tried counting the stars? How many stars do you think you can count?

If you had to stay alone in a forest, name some of the things that you should have with you.

Which are the days in a month when stars are most visible to the eye? Why?



This story has been inspired by an entry to an illustration contest conducted by Pratham Books. Hundreds of such illustrations and stories, are now available for free on Pratham Books' open-source repository of digital stories — **StoryWeaver**.  
[www.storyweaver.org.in](http://www.storyweaver.org.in)





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Mala Kumar is a journalist, writer and editor who enjoys playing with words, and with children—and likes it best if she is playing with both together.

Manisha Chaudhry is an author, editor and translator. When she needs to rejuvenate, she rushes off to the mountains to trek and to catch up with Urdu poetry.



Shikha Nambiar was a corporate lawyer before she chose to professionally pursue her passion for art and design at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology. Her special skills lie in detailed illustration, print and branding. She believes that exploring new places and cultures enriches her work.

**Do you like sleeping under the stars? Tara does!**  
**Join her as she makes an exciting journey.**

**Learning to read – level by level. This is a Level 3 book.**

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who are eager to begin  
reading and listening to  
stories

**1**

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words and can  
read new words  
with help

**2**

**Reading Proficiently**  
For older children  
who can read with  
confidence

**4**

**Reading  
Independently**  
For children who  
are ready to read  
on their own

**3**



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